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## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE LEZLYE ZUPKUS**  
EIGHTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**MEMBER**  
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HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
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#### Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Testimony in support of,

**Raised H.B. No. 5249, An Act Concerning Copayments for Occupational Therapy Services**

**Honored Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for considering H.B. 5249, An Act Concerning Copayments for Occupational Therapy Services. I offer the following testimony in favor of this proposal.

I speak today on behalf of numerous constituents who struggle to receive the care they need. Patients who require occupational therapy are often disadvantaged to begin with due to physical, mental or developmental disabilities. Because of high copayments, these individuals are forced to make tough choices and often cut back on their therapy sessions. The result is that they do not receive the help they need and the underlying problem persists or worsens. Without legislation to directly tackle this problem, more patients are likely to forgo therapy. It is therefore the purpose of this Bill to prohibit health insurance policies from imposing a copayment for occupational therapy which exceeds thirty dollars per visit.

These people deserve a reasonable copayment that is within their means. They should not have to pay significantly more than anyone else would for a routine visit to their primary care physician. It is my hope that the legislature can come together to ensure this problem is addressed and that Connecticut residents can receive affordable access to basic healthcare.

Thank you for your consideration and please support H.B. 5249.

Lezlye Zupkus, State Representative, 89<sup>th</sup> District